

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1109

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS IZMIR 506

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: IZMIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OUSTS SOYER AS
PRESIDENT

1. ON NOV 30 COMMODITY EXCHANGE, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CHAMBERS OF IZMIR HELD ANNUAL ELECTIONS, RESULTING IN UPSET AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. BALLOTING LAST FRIDAY BY CHAMBER'S ASSEMBLY PRODUCED DEFEAT FOR BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION CANDIDATES SUPPORTING DUNDAR SOYER, THREE-TERM INCUMBENT PRESIDENT. SINCE BOARD CHOOSES PRESIDENT, SOYER IS OUT. NEW BOARD CHOSE SABRI TANI, SOYER'S PREDECESSOR, AS PRESIDENT.

SEVERAL LONG-TERM MEMBERS OF BOARD WERE IN SOYER'S CAMP AND FELL WITH HIM. EVEN TEN-YEAR INCUMBENT CHAIRMAN OF ASSEMBLY, WHO IS ELECTED WITH BOARD, REPLACED IN UPHEAVAL. UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY HIS DEFEAT, SOYER RESIGNED FROM BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, TO WHICH HE HAD BEEN ELECTED BY THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF VOTES.

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2. SOYER'S HIGH-HANDED METHODS HAD MADE HIM EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR DURING LAST YEAR AND A HALF AMONG CHAMBER EMPLOYEES AND LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY. AS PRESIDENT, SOYER HAD ENGINEERED A NUMBER OF IMPRESSIVE INNOVATIONS, INCLUDING MORE EFFICIENT INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF CHAMBER, AND HAD GIVEN IZMIR'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY AN INTERNATIONAL PROFILE BY SETTING UP BUSINESS TRIPS ABROAD AND ARRANGING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN IZMIR. HIS MEANS OF ACHIEVING THESE RESULTS, HOWEVER, GAVE CHAMBER EMPLOYEES ALL OF THE WORK AND NONE OF THE CREDIT, AND PRESENTED MEMBER BUSINESSMEN AND INTERESTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITH FACTS ACCOMPLISHED. E.G., RECENT AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATION

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ON TOBACCO TOOK PLACE ON INVITATION OF SOYER TO FAO WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION, APPROVAL OF GOT, WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY HAD TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION BY FAO. EXPENSES INCURRED BY CHAMBER IN SUPPORT OF CONSULTATION ENTAILED HEAVY EXPENDITURES BY SOYER WHICH WERE NOT CLEARLY WITHIN HIS SOLE POWER TO MAKE, AND RESULTED IN COMPLAINTS BY INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS. IN SHORT, WHILE APPROVING HIS ACHIEVEMENTS, CHAMBER CONDEMNED HIS APPROACH AND FRETTERED UNDER IT.

3. AMONG IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF CHAMBER, PRIMARILY SINASIR ERTAN (RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AEGEAN CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY) AND HASAN GUVEN (ELECTED PRESIDENT OF IZMIR COMMODITY EXCHANGE AT EXPENSE OF OMER BESE WHO ERTAN SUPPORTED LAST YEAR) UNITED TO DEFEAT SOYER. APPARENTLY, SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BETWEEN ERTAN AND GUVEN SOLIDIFIED EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION TO SOYER AND INSURED HIS DEFEAT. POLITICAL PARTY ALLIANCES - SOYER IN RELIANCE PARTY, ERTAN AND GUVEN IN JUSTICE PARTY - MAY ALSO HAVE INFLUENCED ELECTION OUTCOME.

SMITH

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